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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

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|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| In re Application of | : |
| Christina Bauer-Plank, et. al. | : |
| Application No. 09/848,988 | : DECISION ON PETITION |
| Filed: May 4, 2001 | : UNDER 37 CFR 1.55(c) |
| Attorney Docket No. F7534(V) | : |

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.55(c), filed July 19, 2004, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) for the benefit of priority to foreign European Application No. 00201631.9, filed May 4, 2000.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

This pending nonprovisional application was filed after November 29, 2000, and did not include a reference to the foreign application, for which benefit is now sought, within the later of four months from the actual filing date of the application or sixteen months from the filing date of the prior foreign application. Since the claim for priority is submitted after the period specified in 37 CFR 1.55(a)(1)(i), this is an appropriate petition under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.55(c).

A petition under 37 CFR 1.55(c) to accept an unintentionally delayed claim for priority requires:

- (1) The nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of an earlier filing date must be filed on or after November 29, 2000;
- (2) the claim submitted with the petition must identify the prior foreign application for which priority is claimed, as well as any foreign application for the same subject matter and having a filing date before that of the application for which priority is claimed, by the application number, country, and the filing date and be included either in an oath or declaration (37 CFR 1.63(c)(2)) or in an Application Data Sheet (37 CFR 1.76(b)(6));
- (3) the surcharge as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(t);

- (4) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.55(a)(1) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional (the Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional); and
- (5) the above-identified nonprovisional application must be filed within 12 months of the filing date of the foreign application.

This application was filed on May 4, 2001, which is after November 29, 2000 and within 12 months of May 4, 2000 (the filing date of the foreign application to which benefit is now being claimed). On December 2, 2004, an executed oath/declaration was received which identifies the foreign application for which priority is claimed by application number, country and filing date. The required petition fee of \$1,330 was received with the petition. Lastly, petitioner has provided an adequate statement of unintentional delay.

37 CFR § 1.55(c) requires a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR § 1.55(a)(1) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. Since the statement appearing in the petition varies from the required language, the statement is being construed as the statement required by 37 CFR § 1.55(c). If this is not a correct reading of the statement appearing in the petition, petitioner should promptly notify the Office.

All of the above requirements having been satisfied, the late claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) is accepted as being unintentionally delayed.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed application under 37 CFR 1.55(c) should not be construed as meaning that this application is entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application. In order for this application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) and 37 CFR 1.55(a)(1) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed application should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed application noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether this application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed foreign application, accompanies this decision on petition.

This application is being referred to Technology Center AU 1761 for examination in due course and for consideration by the examiner of record of the foreign priority claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

Any inquiries directly pertaining to this matter may be directed to Andrea Smith at (571) 272-3226.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frances Hicks". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Frances" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Hicks".

Frances Hicks
Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

ATTACHMENT: Corrected Filing Receipt



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| APPL NO. | FILING OR 371(c) DATE | ART UNIT | FIL FEE REC'D | ATTY. DOCKET NO | TOT CLMS | IND CLMS |
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| 09/848,988 | 05/04/2001 | 1761 | 840 | F7534(V) | 14 | 2 |

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CONFIRMATION NO. 8753

CORRECTED FILING RECEIPT



OC000000022952510

Date Mailed: 03/16/2007

Receipt is acknowledged of this regular Patent Application. It will be considered in its order and you will be notified as to the results of the examination. Be sure to provide the U.S. APPLICATION NUMBER, FILING DATE, NAME OF APPLICANT, and TITLE OF INVENTION when inquiring about this application. Fees transmitted by check or draft are subject to collection. Please verify the accuracy of the data presented on this receipt. **If an error is noted on this Filing Receipt, please mail to the Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria Va 22313-1450. Please provide a copy of this Filing Receipt with the changes noted thereon. If you received a "Notice to File Missing Parts" for this application, please submit any corrections to this Filing Receipt with your reply to the Notice. When the USPTO processes the reply to the Notice, the USPTO will generate another Filing Receipt incorporating the requested corrections (if appropriate).**

Applicant(s)

Christina Bauer-Plank, Vlaardingen, NETHERLANDS;
 Marcelle Van Den Kommer, Vlaardingen, NETHERLANDS;
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Assignment For Published Patent Application

Lipton, Division of Conopco, Inc.

Power of Attorney:

Gerard McGowan Jr--29412

Domestic Priority data as claimed by applicant

Foreign Applications

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE (EPO) 00201631.9 05/04/2000

If Required, Foreign Filing License Granted: 06/28/2001

The country code and number of your priority application, to be used for filing abroad under the Paris Convention, is **US09/848,988**

Projected Publication Date: Not Applicable

Non-Publication Request: No

Early Publication Request: No

Title

POURABLE FRYING COMPOSITION

Preliminary Class

426

PROTECTING YOUR INVENTION OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES

Since the rights granted by a U.S. patent extend only throughout the territory of the United States and have no effect in a foreign country, an inventor who wishes patent protection in another country must apply for a patent in a specific country or in regional patent offices. Applicants may wish to consider the filing of an international application under the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT). An international (PCT) application generally has the same effect as a regular national patent application in each PCT-member country. The PCT process **simplifies** the filing of patent applications on the same invention in member countries, but **does not result** in a grant of "an international patent" and does not eliminate the need of applicants to file additional documents and fees in countries where patent protection is desired.

Almost every country has its own patent law, and a person desiring a patent in a particular country must make an application for patent in that country in accordance with its particular laws. Since the laws of many countries differ in various respects from the patent law of the United States, applicants are advised to seek guidance from specific foreign countries to ensure that patent rights are not lost prematurely.

Applicants also are advised that in the case of inventions made in the United States, the Director of the USPTO must issue a license before applicants can apply for a patent in a foreign country. The filing of a U.S. patent application serves as a request for a foreign filing license. The application's filing receipt contains further information and guidance as to the status of applicant's license for foreign filing.

Applicants may wish to consult the USPTO booklet, "General Information Concerning Patents" (specifically, the section entitled "Treaties and Foreign Patents") for more information on timeframes and deadlines for filing foreign patent applications. The guide is available either by contacting the USPTO Contact Center at 800-786-9199, or it can be viewed on the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web/offices/pac/doc/general/index.html>.

For information on preventing theft of your intellectual property (patents, trademarks and copyrights), you may wish to consult the U.S. Government website, <http://www.stopfakes.gov>. Part of a Department of Commerce initiative, this website includes self-help "toolkits" giving innovators guidance on how to protect intellectual property in specific countries such as China, Korea and Mexico. For questions regarding patent enforcement issues, applicants may call the U.S. Government hotline at 1-866-999-HALT (1-866-999-4158).

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NOT GRANTED

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